

SHORT COMMUNICATION

First record of the crane-fly *Dicranomyia (Dicranomyia) ventralis* (Schummel) (Diptera: Limoniidae) from Ireland—A single specimen of a strange *Dicranomyia* crane-fly with reduced mouthparts was collected by one of us (P.A.) while sweeping for insects on the 15.ix.1991 at Woodlawn, Lough Sheelin, Co. Cavan (N471861). When the specimen was examined after mounting, it was identified as *Dicranomyia (Dicranomyia) ?ventralis* (Schummel) based on AMS key prepared by the senior author. The reason for the uncertain identification was because the ecological information available to us at the time of its discovery indicated that the species was a coastal species whereas the Irish specimen was collected along the shoreline of an inland freshwater lake which is about 60 km from the sea. Since then further information on the ecology has been published (Falk, 1991), which shows that apart from occurring in brackish coastal ditches amongst vegetation it also occurs at inland locations along sparsely vegetated margins of lakes and ponds. The specimen is a male and the details of the genitalia were later found to match the figure of this species illustrated in Geiger (1986).

D. (D.) ventralis is listed as a red data species in Falk (*op. cit.*) and regarded as a 'notable' species, the lesser of the four categories, based on the fact that it is only known from about 30 post 1960 sites in Britain. We have adopted the Falk (*op. cit.*) ranking of 'notable' for this species though in the earlier publication of Shirt (1987) it is ranked as 'Category 3 Rare'.

In Ashe *et al.* (1998), 40 species of the subfamily Limoniinae were listed for Ireland and the addition of *D. (D.) ventralis* raises this total to 41 compared to the 70 species recorded from Britain.

The species is widely distributed in the Palaearctic being recorded from most European countries including Russia, Ukraine and in the eastern Palaearctic is known from Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, North Korea and Asiatic Russia (Siberia) as well as the Oriental Region (India) (Savchenko *et al.*, 1992). The specimen has been presented to the National Museum of Ireland.—P. ASHE, Research Associate, Department of Zoology, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4; J. P. O'CONNOR, National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

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